(b) if so, the details of their recommendations and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee set up by the Government *inter alia* made the following recommendations:—

— Epidemiological parameters for identification of high risk are as.

— Localised control measures to prevent malaria mortality and reduce morbidity;

— Early ditection and prompt treatment;

— Vector control to interrupt transmission with appropriate insecticides in rural areas;

— Anti-larval measures with larvicides to eliminate mosquito breeding source in urban areas; and

— Intensification of Health Education activities to create awareness among the people to prevent malaria.

Necessary instructions about the steps to be taken for prevention of Malaria as a disease and the drug regime to be followed at the village level have been issued to the State Governments.

Measures to check accidental HIV infection

1535. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has suggested effective infection Control measures in hospitals to allay patients' fears regarding accidental HIV infection as per the report in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 13th February, 1995, under, caption "Report for HIV infection checks";

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) what action the Central Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendations of the Expert Group in Indian Council of Medical Research in the context of emerging problem of HIV infection, comprehensive guidelines for the control of Hospital acquired infections were formulated and communicated to the Health authorities of all the States/ Union Territories for strict implementation.

Lung cancer from environmental tobacco smoke

1536. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental tobacco smoke causes lung cancer; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is providing health education to the public to stop tobacco intake in any form. Voluntary Organisations are also providing assistance for health education activities.

Air quality in public places due to environmental tobacco smoke

1537. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that environmental tobacco smoke creates poor air quality in public places and work places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the persons who are non smokers feel agitated and cannot wait or sit on the same place; and

(c) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government have proposed to enact a legislation providing, *inter alia*, a ban on smoking at selected public areas.

Steps to avoid smoking in sensitive places

1538. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware that due to courtesy smoking is tolerated on even sensitive places which is a risk; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to avoid such a big risk and deterioration of public health?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have proposed enacting a legislation providing, inter alia, ban on smoking in public places.

Statement regarding environmental tobacco smoke

1539. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governmennt are aware that the scientists do not agree that ETS has been proven to be a cause of disease and the scientific evidence, considered as a whole, does not justify this;

(b) what do the Government consider for this statement; and

(c) whether due to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) the hospitals are full of patients and are waiting for serious ailments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Majority of the scientific community is of the view that environmental tobacco smoke is an important factor in the causation of diseases like lung cancer, apart from cardiovascular and other lung diseases.

(c) No such data is available.

Malaria affected areas in Andhra Pradesh

1540. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) which are the worst Malaria affected areas in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the details of the areas thus identified; and

(c) whether Government have extended any assistance to counter the increasing incidence of malaria in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SILVERA): (a) and (b) Based on the analysis of data for 1993 and 1994, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, Srikakulam, Adilabad and Khamam districts of Andhra Pradesh were more affected by Malaria.

(c) In addition to monitoring of the Malaria situation by the Central Govt. and providing technical guidelines for implementing the Malaria Control activities, the following assistance during 1993-94 and 1994-95 have been provided to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh:—

Year	Rs. in lakhs
93-94 . .	500·62
94-95	637·06